

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 06588 251802Z

44

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6588

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG APER UN WHO

SUBJ: POST OF DIRECTOR DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF: A) USUN 3746; B) GENEVA 6148; C) USUN 3457

1. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON MATTERS RAISED REFTTEL A):

2. DR GEORG LING (CANADIAN AND FORMER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR) HAS BEEN WITH WHO FOR AROUND ONE YEAR, SERVING AS CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH. IN THIS CAPACITY (P-5) LING PROVIDES TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR AND IS PRINCIPAL PLANNER, NEGOTIATOR AND EXECUTOR OF UNFDAC'S PROJECTS IN TREATMENT/REHABILITATION FIELD. ON BASIS OUR OBSERVATIONS OF HIS PERFORMANCE TO DATE WE AGREE WITH COMMENT MADE RECENTLY BY SENIOR UN OFFICIAL, WORKING CLOSELY WITH LING, WHO TERMS HIM "STRONG ON PEOPLE BUT WEAK ON ADMINISTRATION".

3. FACT IS THAT IMPLEMENTATION BY WHO OF UNFDAC-FINANCED PROJECTS IS MOVING AT SNAIL'S PACE. SITUATION IS SUCH THAT MEDICAL EXPERTS MAY SOON NEED BE ATTACHED DIRECTLY TO DUND ITSELF IF WORK IS TO BE EXPEDITED ON CRITICAL DEMAND SIDE OF DRUG PROBLEM. THIS UNFORTUNATE STATE OF AFFAIRS IS DUE IMPORTANTLY TO WHO ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO ACCORD ADEQUATE PRIORITY AND STAFF RESOURCES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 06588 251802Z

TO DRUG CONTROL. HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER THAT SITUATION STEMS ALSO

FROM APPROACH OF LING HIMSELF WHO DOES NOT EXHIBIT MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AND SEEMS AFFLICTED WITH MARTEN' SYNDROME OF TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING HIMSELF. AS RESULT, PROJECTS ARE NOT PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT IN SYSTEMATIC AND TIMELY MANNER. UNFDAC ITSELF HAS TRIED HELP BY OFFERING FINANCE STAFF SUPPORT (ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT), BUT LING HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE FUND'S OFFER MADE AROUND SIX MONTHS AGO. ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTOR IN ANY CASE IS LING'S BAD HEALTH; WE UNDERSTAND HE HAS SERIOUS ULCER CONDITION, AND, ON MEDICAL ADVICE, PLANS TAKE OFF TWO MONTHS AT END OF SEPT. IN SHORT, IN OUR VIEW LING'S FORTE AND CAPABILITIES ARE NOT (REPEAT NOT) MANAGEMENT AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD BE ABLE EFFECTIVELY COPE WITH SERIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE DISARRAY IN DND. FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT BEST USE OF LING'S SPECIAL TALENTS, PARTICULARLY IN NEGOTIATING PROGRAMS WITH GOVERNMENTS, WOULD BE TO LEAVE HIM WHERE HE IS IN WHO TO TRY STRAIGHTEN OUT SITUATION THERE.

4. WE HAVE AGAIN REVIEWED ALL KNOWN CANDIDATES FOR DND DIRECTORSHIP. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE ON BASIS OUR DAY-TO-DAY OBSERVATIONS OF HIS PERFORMANCE THAT BRAENDEN IS BEST QUALIFIED. AGAINST OPINIONS HIS DETRACTORS IT WOULD SEEM THAT DAVIDSON MIGHT WISH WEIGH FAVORABLE OPINIONS OF BRAENDEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES AS EXPRESSED IN UN'S OWN EXPERT MANAGEMENT SURVEYS AND IN CND BY REPRESENTATIVES SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING USG. DEROGATORY OPINIONS OF WINSPEARE AND MESSING, NEITHER OF WHOM HAS OCCASION THEMSELVES FOLLOW BRENDEN'S WORK DIRECTLY, APPEAR STEM FROM VIEWS EXPRESSED TO THEM BY MARTENS WHOSE OWN STRENGTHS DO NOT (REPEAT NOT) LIE IN MANAGING PEOPLE AND MORAL IN DND IS GENERALLY POOR. MARTEN' ESTIMATE OF BRAENDEN HAS UNDERSTANDABLY BEEN AFFECTED BY DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THEM ARISING FROM LATTER'S FRUSTRATION AT MARTENS' FAILURE MAKE DECISIONS REQUIRED TO PERMIT UN NARCOTICS LABORATORY PERFORM EFFECTIVELY WITHIN TECHNICAL TIMING CONSTRAINTS AND GOVTS' WISHES. WE KNOW ALSO FROM IMPECCABLE SOURCE THAT MARTENS' HESITATIONS ABOUT BRAENDEN STEM OTHERWISE FROM HIS FEELING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 06588 251802Z

THAT BRAENDEN'S ATTITUDES ARE TOO "PRO-AMERICAN" TO ENABLE HIM MAINTAIN "CREDIBILITY" WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. WE URGE USUN TO REITERATE TO DAVIDSON USG'S SUPPORT OF BRAENDEN AS BEST AVAILABLE CANDIDATE AND OUR DISAGREEMENT WITH ESTIMES HIS DETRACTORS. HOWEVER, IF IN EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES IT SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE

OBTAIN AGREEMENT BRAENDEN'S APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR EVEN FOR SHORT PERIOD SUCH AS TWO YEARS, BEST TACK MIGHT BE TO PROPOSE HIS DESIGNATION IN ACTING CAPACITY EFFECTIVE DATE OF MARTENS' DEPARTURE, NAMELY, OCT. 1, SUCH ACTING DESIGNATION TO BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE FINAL DECISION. THIS WOULD PROVIDE TIME FOR UN ADMINISTRATION FURTHER TO OBSERVE BRAENDEN'S PERFORMANCE AND IF NECESSARY SEARCH FOR OTHER CANDIDATES. SINCE DAVIDSON HIMSELF MENTIONED SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT AS POSSIBLE INTERIM SOLUTION (REF C) HE WOULD HOPEFULLY BE RECEPTIVE TO USUN DEMARCHE THIS EFFECT.

6. WE ARE PLEASED THAT, IN VIEW USG'S OPPOSITION TO MICUTA'S APPOINTMENT TO DND DIRECTORSHIP, DAVIDSON IS APPARENTLY RULING HIM OUT AS POSSIBILITY. HOWEVER, IF NO APPOINTMENT IS TO BE MADE FOR "SEVERAL WEEKS", AS DAVIDSON INDICATES, WE URGE THAT USUN MAKE CLEAR TO DAVIDSON THAT WE ARE ALSO OPPOSED TO MICUTA'S SERVING IN ACTING CAPACITY PENDING APPOINTMENT NEW DIRECTOR. IF SUCH DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE PREVENTED, WE WOULD FAVOR SUSPENDING ANY FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFDAC, FOR WHICH DND SERVES AS TECHNICAL ARM, UNTIL ACCEPTABLE DIRECTORS TAKES OVER.

7. MICUTA'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN SUCH AS TO IMPAIR HIS ABILITY EFFECTIVELY TO DEAL WITH CERTAIN OF UNFDAC'S MAIN CLIENTS WITH WHOM USG CANNOT WORK BILATERALLY. WE ARE TOLD BY EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT MARUFI (AFGHANISTAN) HAS MADE CLEAR THAT GOA DOES NOT WISH DEAL WITH MICUTA. WE KNOW FROM OUR OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH TURKS THAT MICUTA IS ALSO UNACCEPTABLE TO GOT AND WOULD BE SERIOUS HANDICAP TO CONTINUANCE OF UNFDAC'S DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM IN TURKEY TO WHICH USG CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 GENEVA 06588 251802Z

ATTACHES SUCH HIGH PRIORITY. MICUTA'S CONDUCT ON OCCASION HIS PARTICIPATION IN UN'S FIRST NARCOTICS MISSION TO TURKEY ONE YEAR AGO PROMPTED TEAM'S LEADER, SIR HARRY GREENFIELD, TO REFER TO MICUTA AS "A STONE AROUND MY NECK". MICUTA'S SUBSEQUENT DELAYING TACTICS IN RELATION TURKISH PROGRAM BE MANAGED EXCLUSIVELY BY OTHER UN OFFICIALS.

8. ON BASIS OUR DAY-TO-DAY OBSERVATIONS OF MICUTA'S PERFORMANCE, WE CONSIDER HIM TO BE UNSTABLE, EMOTIONAL AND TOO DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED SYSTEMATICALLY TO PLAN, CARRY OUT AND EVALUATE REALISTIC DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS CAPABLE OF ESSENTIAL QUICK IMPACT. IN ADDITIONAL MICUTA IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO UNFDAC OR OTHER SENIOR DND OFFICIALS AND IS UNABLE WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH THEM. MARTENS

HIMSELF IS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF MICUTA'S UNRELIABLE REPORTING AND ERRATIC BEHAVIOR. WE AGREE WITH THIS ESTIMATE.

9. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REF B, WE CONTINUE BELIEVE THAT THREAT MICUTA'S CONTINUING HERE IN ANY CAPACITY SHOULD BE REMOVED BY UNDP'S AGREEING EITHER NOT EXTEND HIM BEYOND DEC WHEN HE REACHES AGE OF SIXTY AND HIS SECONDMENT TO DND EXPIRES, OR ASSIGNING HIM ELSE WHERE, HOPEFULLY EVEN BEFORE DEC. DALE

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